

Memorandum: Detail of Adjustments Made Above

	Regular	OCO	Program Integrity	Disaster Relief	Emergency	Total
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority .....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority .....	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Purpose Outlays .....	0	-214	0	0	0	-214

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the September 6, 2018, vote on the motion to confirm Executive Calendar No. 779, Dominic W. Lanza to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona. I would have voted no.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the September 6, 2018, vote on the motion to confirm Executive Calendar No. 782, Charles J. Williams to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Iowa. I would have voted aye.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the September 12, 2018, vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Charles P. Rettig, of California, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the term expiring November 12, 2022. I would have voted no.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the September 12, 2018, vote on the motion to confirm Charles P. Rettig, of California, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the term expiring November 12, 2022. I would have voted no.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the September 12, 2018, vote on the conference report to accompany H.R. 5895, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes. I would have voted aye.

H.R. 5895

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, the Senate passed 3 of the required 12 appropriations bills needed to fund the Federal Government starting on October first. The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Energy and Water, and Legislative Branch appropriations bills fund vital programs that care for our military, protect our infrastructure, and support the dedicated Federal employees that work for the U.S. Congress.

Within the minibus, programs and projects such as the VA's National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Army Corps dredging for the Port of Baltimore, and a new paid-internship program in the Senate are just a few of the hundreds of items funded in these bills that will benefit the people of Maryland and the Nation. However, I do not support the \$65 million appropriated in fiscal year 2019 for a new low-yield nuclear warhead for a submarine-launched ballistic missile. I believe this is an unnecessary new weapon that increases the risk of miscalculation and unintended escalation.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am pleased that we have gotten this far and I look forward

to working with my colleagues on moving the other bills to final passage.

SYRIA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearing on Russia's role in Syria and the broader Middle East that had been scheduled for last week has been postponed; therefore, I rise today to raise awareness on the danger and urgency of the moment, given the impending humanitarian catastrophe in Idlib, Syria, and the refusal of the Trump administration to impose meaningful costs on Russia for protecting Bashar al-Assad and his regime.

On Syria, Congress again finds itself in a situation where we often hear more from the press than we do directly from the administration. Last week many of us read with interest in the Washington Post a report that President Trump agreed to a new strategy for Syria that indefinitely extends the U.S. military presence and supports a major diplomatic push to end the conflict. This same article also indicated that the administration views the military campaign against ISIS as nearly complete and that U.S. goals have now shifted to Iran's presence in Syria given the doubts that Russia is willing and capable of ejecting Iran from Syria.

Congress and the American people deserve to hear directly from the Trump administration whether in fact this is our new strategy. When this hearing is rescheduled, I expect the administration to explain in detail its proposed diplomatic engagement and the plan for U.S. forces in Syria after ISIS is defeated. I also want to know what specific tools the administration proposes to use to ensure the removal of Iran from Syria; compel the Assad regime to cease and Russia to cease support for the bombing, torture, and gassing of Syrian civilians; and hold Assad's brutal regime to account for its crimes against the Syrian people, as well as consequences for the Kremlin's support of this brutal regime.

In my view, Russia is fully culpable for perpetuating the war in Syria and rendering that country persistently unstable, a magnet for violent extremists and a direct threat to Israel.

Now more than ever, we must shine a light on Russia's role in perpetuating the conflict in Syria, as well as Russia's role in the region. And while we still await details on the disastrous and embarrassing Helsinki summit between Presidents Trump and Putin, I am deeply concerned that for the Syrian people Helsinki made a bad situation worse.

I fear that President Trump did not raise Russia's war crimes in Syria,

such as Russian aircraft dropping Russian bombs in densely populated areas of Syria. I doubt that President Trump called Putin out for violating the deescalation agreement in southern Syria, agreed to last year by the United States, Russia, and Jordan. I am skeptical that President Trump pressed Putin to commit to delivering Assad to participate in good faith at the UN-led process for a negotiated settlement along the lines of Security Council Resolution 2254. I doubt that President Trump insisted that Russia break its sinister alliance with Tehran that has enabled the survival of Assad in Syria and threatened the security of Israel. And I see no indication that the administration is using any of the tools Congress has given it—including mandatory sanctions provisions in the Countering American Adversaries Through Sanctions Act of 2017, CAATSA—to change the status quo in Syria or prevent the looming assault on Idlib province, where Russia is already engaged in a bombing campaign alongside its client Assad.

It seems to me that the administration is taking a backseat—or maybe has gotten out of the car entirely—while the Assad-Russia-Iran alliance is left unchallenged to starve, torture, and bomb the Syrian people into submission.

While the humanitarian dimensions of this tragedy are reason enough for the administration to take a different approach, there are significant strategic consequences for allowing or enabling an Assad-Russia-Iran partnership to solidify as a salient feature of the landscape of the Middle East. But instead of U.S. leadership shaping the region, we have instead Vladimir Putin—the man who has long ensured Bashar al-Assad's survival—flying around the Middle East completing deals for base access and weapons sales. And rather than utilize the threat of CAATSA sanctions to compel U.S. partners in the Arab world to cease significant purchases from the Russian defense and intelligence sectors, the administration instead sought a national security waiver for this provision of the law.

While the United States has backed away from its key leadership role in addressing the region's conflicts, governments in the Middle East rolled out the red carpet for Putin and flocked to Russia during the World Cup to sit by his side and sign agreements for increased cooperation.

Putin can only take away one message from this posture by the Trump administration: Russian activities and influence in the Middle East will not be challenged in any meaningful way by the United States.

With so many vital U.S. national security interests at stake in the region—including the safety and effectiveness of our troops fighting ISIS—this leadership vacuum risks outcomes that serve only Russia's interests, not our own.

While President Trump may believe that Russian hegemony in the Middle East and Russian partnership with Iran is not a cause for concern, I am deeply alarmed that we are on the road to a series of outcomes in Syria that will be as catastrophic in human terms as they will be strategically ruinous for U.S. interests and values for years to come.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALLENTOWN JCC

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I congratulate the board of directors of the Jewish Community Center, or JCC, in Allentown, PA as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. Community leaders and JCC members will gather on October 4 through 6 to celebrate and honor this remarkable institution in the Lehigh Valley.

For 100 years, the JCC of Allentown has served as the beating heart of the Lehigh Valley Jewish community. Through its early childhood and after-school programs, sports, wellness, and cultural activities, the JCC enriches the lives of generations of Lehigh Valley families of all backgrounds and heritage.

Many JCC members are first introduced to the JCC community in preschool. Eventually, they are old enough to attend a JCC summer camp, where they may learn to swim, play basketball, cook, or act in theatre. As adults, these members may take their own children to a community Seder, attend the Jewish Film Festival, or practice a healthy lifestyle of weekly gym sessions. Eventually, many members will participate in the Friendship Circle and Silver Sneakers programs at the JCC.

If you take a drive through Allentown's historic downtown area, it is difficult to miss a building called Alliance Hall on the corner of 6th and Chew Streets. Today, the building is occupied by the Allentown Health Bureau. A century ago, however, the 19th century Victorian mansion standing at this location served as the first Allentown JCC.

In 1918, the leaders of the Allentown Jewish community—among them successful local entrepreneurs, high-skilled professionals, and survivors of pogroms overseas—were searching for ways to support younger Jewish immigrants as they integrated into American society and aspired to fulfill the opportunities offered by the American dream. They purchased the Victorian mansion, turning it into a focal point for the Jewish community and especially its youth.

The facility was so popular that, within a decade, it was clear the JCC

would need more space. David Levy, Allentown's first Jewish architect, graciously donated his services to design a new, larger building on the same site. That building would be called Alliance Hall, and from 1928 to 1954, it reliably served the JCC's ever-expanding membership. The JCC flourished and inevitably had to relocate, one last time, to where it resides today at 22nd and Tilghman Streets in Allentown's West End neighborhood.

Most importantly, since 1918, the JCC of Allentown has been the place where all community members feel welcomed, engaged, and part of the JCC family. Today it serves over 2,000 members, and I am honored to congratulate them on the 100th anniversary of the JCC's establishment.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO THE REV. DR. GRAINGER BROWNING, JR., AND THE REV. DR. JO ANN BROWNING

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this Sunday, I will have the honor and pleasure of attending services at Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal, AME, Church in Fort Washington, MD to celebrate the 35th anniversary of service to this wonderful church by my dear friends, the Reverend Dr. Grainger Browning, Jr., and his wife, the Reverend Dr. Jo Ann Browning.

Ebenezer AME Church's beginning is similar to the origin of many other AME churches. In 1856, 13 Black members left Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church in Georgetown because of discrimination and segregation. They erected a new church at 2727 O Street, NW, not far from Mt. Zion. They named it "Ebenezer", meaning "stone of help," a reference to I Samuel 7:12. The congregation worshiped in the historic Georgetown location for well over one century. By 1983, however, many Black families had left Georgetown. Church membership fell to fewer than 30 people, with a Sunday offering of only \$200 per week.

With the vision, leadership, and support of Bishop John Hurst Adams—the presiding prelate, Second Episcopal District at that time—the Reverend Howard C. Wright as pastor, Dr. Joseph C. McKinney as the African Methodist Church treasurer, and the Washington Conference Board of Trustees, 17 faithful members moved to Fort Washington, MD, and the church in Georgetown was sold.

One month following the move to a 500-seat sanctuary with a \$3,500 monthly mortgage note and a \$300 weekly offering, the Reverend Dr. Grainger and Reverend Dr. Jo Ann Browning were called to serve the Ebenezer family. The congregation soon outgrew the building and began holding worship services at the Friendly High School auditorium in 1986. In 1994, having outgrown the 1,500-seat auditorium at "Friendly Ebenezer," members carried

their faith pilgrimage to "Ebenezer the Beautiful," a 2,600-seat sanctuary on 33 acres of land. Many people call the current church "The Miracle on Allentown Road."

The Reverend Dr. Grainger Browning, Jr., is the senior pastor of Ebenezer AME Church. He is a 1974 graduate of Hampton University in Hampton, VA, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in history and education and was a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He was awarded a master of divinity degree in 1982 from Howard University Divinity School, where he was awarded the Benjamin E. Mays Theological Fellowship. He received doctor of divinity degrees from Payne Theological Seminary in Wilberforce, OH and from the AME University in Monrovia, Liberia. Before Pastor Browning was called into ministry, he was a high school educator with the Newton Massachusetts Public School System, serving as department chairperson in social science. While he was living in the Boston area, Pastor Browning was also vice president of the Boston NAACP from 1982 to 1983.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Pastor Browning has ministered extensively throughout the African continent, including Senegal, Gambia, Lesotho, Zambia, South Africa, Liberia, and Egypt. He currently serves as a member of the board of trustees for both Wilberforce University—after serving as vice chairman from 2002 to 2006—and Payne Theological Seminary. Pastor Browning is also a member of the board of directors of the Rainbow/People United to Save Humanity, PUSH, Coalition. In that capacity, he has traveled on several delegations with the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr., to Israel, Palestine, Sudan, Libya, Lebanon, Syria, and Ghana, meeting with the heads of state in each one of these countries.

Pastor Browning is married to the Reverend Dr. Jo Ann Browning, copastor of Ebenezer AME Church. She graduated from Boston University in 1976 with a bachelor of science degree in Communications. She received a master of divinity degree in 1986 and a doctorate of ministry from Howard University School of Divinity in 1991. While at Howard, she was a recipient of the Benjamin E. Mays and the Pew Fellowships.

Pastor Browning immediately began assisting her husband and was hired as assistant minister in 1985. She originally served as assistant pastor. In 1998, Bishop Vinton R. Anderson, then presiding prelate of the Second Episcopal District, made the unprecedented appointment assigning the Reverend Dr. Jo Ann Browning as copastor of Ebenezer. Since 2005, Bishop Adam J. Richardson has continued this groundbreaking appointment.

In addition to her pastoral responsibilities, Pastor Browning has preached, taught, and facilitated workshops throughout the United States, Haiti, Bermuda, Barbados, Germany,